

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented): A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
- receiving the meta definition for the data object;
- identifying object attributes in the meta definition; and
- prompting a user to input data values corresponding to the object attributes.

2. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1 further comprising, before querying for a meta definition of a data object, determining an object type of a data object.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein the software component is in a client.

5. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein the query for the meta definition for the data object is sent to a Meta Data Service.

6. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5 wherein the meta definition is cached to improve the performance of the Meta Data Service.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended): [[The]] A method according to claim 7 in a software component for processing a data object in a data processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- receiving a data value stream;

sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
receiving a meta definition of the data object; and
mapping data values to a data structure according to attributes in the meta
definition of the data object,

wherein the software component is a Persistent Object Service.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented): A data processing system for processing a data object, said data processing system comprising:

querying means for querying for a meta definition of a data object;
receipt means for receiving the meta definition for the data object;
identification means for identifying object attributes in the meta definition; and
prompting means for prompting a user to input data values corresponding to the object attributes.

14. (Previously Presented): The data processing system according to claim 13 further comprising determination means for determining an object type of a data object before querying a Meta Data Service for a meta definition of a data object.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented): A computer program product for use with a data processing system for processing a data object, said computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium;
first instructions for sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
second instructions for receiving the meta definition for the data object;
third instructions for identifying object attributes in the meta definition; and

fourth instructions for prompting a user to input data values corresponding to the object attributes.

20. (Previously Presented): The computer program product according to claim 19 further comprising instructions for determining an object type of a data object before querying a Meta Data Service for a meta definition of a data object.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving inputted data values corresponding to the object attributes from the user;
and
sending a data value stream including the inputted data values to a server.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of prompting the user for data values comprises:
matching the meta definition to graphical user interface fields; and
presenting the graphical user interface fields to the user.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended): [[The]] A method according to claim 28 in a software component for processing a data object in a data processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving a data value stream;

sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;

receiving a meta definition of the data object; and

mapping data values to a data structure according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object, wherein the data structure is a database and wherein the database is a relational database.

30. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving inputted data values corresponding to the object attributes from the user; and
means for sending a data value stream including the inputted data values to a server.

31. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 13, wherein the prompting means comprises:
means for matching the meta definition to graphical user interface fields; and
means for presenting the graphical user interface fields to the user.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 33~~ A data processing system for processing a data object, said data processing system comprising:
first receipt means for receiving a data value stream;
sender means for sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
second receipt means for receiving the meta definition of the data object ; and
mapping means for mapping data values to a data structure according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object, wherein the data structure is a database and wherein the database is a relational database.

35-47. (Canceled)